

larva of *Acronycta hastulifera*, A. & S., many of the barbed hairs forming the black pencils are flattened at the end and black, but not striated.

These specialized and highly differentiated dark scale-like setæ appear to be of use in rendering the dorsal tufts more conspicuous, the caterpillars being very hairy, and thus probably inedible by birds. It should be observed that the larva of *Gastropacha americana*, in which the dorsal tubercles and the scales are much smaller than in the European *G. quercifolia*, is rendered at least equally conspicuous by the two transverse bright scarlet bands disclosed behind the second and third thoracic segments when the insect is creeping. These appear to be entirely wanting in the European species.

Finally, the occurrence of these scales, so much like those of adult Lepidoptera, is an interesting example of the acceleration of development of the setæ in the larval stage, and it is not improbable that in the ancestors of certain of the Lasiocampidæ they were characters acquired during the later stages of their larval lifetime.

Providence, R. I., U. S. A.

LV—*On the Ophideres princeps of Guenée and its utter dissimilarity in Structure and Pattern from the Ophideres princeps of Boisduval.* By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

IN the 'Voyage of the 'Astrolabe'' (Lépidoptères, p. 245) M. Boisduval described a moth from Dorey, New Guinea, under the name of *Ophideres princeps*; he characterized it as allied to *O. materna*, Cramer, and as having "the front wings blackish, slightly clouded, dusted with black and a little varied with greenish, with four white spots, grouped in pairs; the lower wings yellow with a kidney-shaped patch and a black border, and the fringe intersected with whitish." This is probably one of the innumerable varieties of the wide-ranging *O. fullonica*.

In the third volume of his 'Noctuélites' M. Guenée describes and figures a West-African species (with M. Boisduval's locality) as *O. princeps*—evidently without taking the trouble to look up the description in the 'Voyage of the 'Astrolabe,' with which the African species hardly corresponds in a single particular, inasmuch as the front wings,

even in the female, only exhibit one isolated white spot; the lower wings also being orange, with a uniform black border and no kidney-shaped patch, but with the base of the wings also blackish, a marginal series of buff spots, and the fringe opposite to these spots intersected with pure white.

In his 'Catalogue of Lepidoptera Heterocera' Walker again neglected to look up the original description, but blindly followed M. Guenée, although he indicated his belief that the Museum specimen was from West Africa.

In his 'Monograph of Ophideridæ' Mr. Moore again followed Walker, stating that *Ophideres* must be restricted to its type *O. princeps*, and adopting for *O. fullonica* the name *Othreis*, Hübner (which is, of course, synonymous with *Ophideres* if we admit that typical *O. princeps* is *O. fullonica*).

The *Ophideres princeps* of Guenée, Walker, and Moore thus remains without a generic or specific name, and may be called *Halastus intricatus*. We have it from Old Calabar, Sierra Leone, Ambriz, and the River Niger. The family must now be called Othreidæ.

LVI.—*On the Radula of Paludestrina Jenkinsi, Smith, and that of P. ventrosa, Mont.* By B. B. WOODWARD, F.G.S., F.R.M.S.

WHEN in the autumn of 1889 my friend and colleague Mr. E. A. Smith had under observation the specimens of *Paludestrina* (= *Hydrobia*) to which he afterwards gave the name of *P. Jenkinsi* *, he handed some examples to me with the request that I would examine the radula and compare it with that of *P. ventrosa*, Mont. At that time these two species were thought to be very closely allied, and, indeed, with some it was a disputed point, since conceded, whether *P. Jenkinsi* were anything more than a variety of *P. ventrosa*.

Pressure of work at the time, followed by prolonged ill-health, prevented the completion of the investigation, or all doubts as to the specific distinctness of the two forms might speedily have been set at rest, as the accompanying notes and descriptions will serve to show.

At the very first glance a dissimilarity in character is

* Journ. Conch. vi. (1889) p. 142; figured in 'Essex Naturalist,' iv. p. 214.